

Amendments to the Claims:

The following pending claims are provided for Examiner's convenience:

1-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a copper species coated on a porous transition alumina, said composition having a copper to aluminum atomic ratio in the range 0.14 to 0.5 and having, upon reduction of the copper species with hydrogen at 250°C, a copper surface area of at least 60m² per gram of copper, wherein said transition alumina has a pore volume in the range of 0.45 to 1.0 ml/g.

10. (Original) A composition according to claim 9 having a BET surface area above 80m²/g.

11. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 9 having a copper to aluminum atomic ratio of at least 0.16.

12. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the composition, following reduction, contains at least 60 wt.% of alumina.

13. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the composition is essentially free from compounds of zinc and magnesium.

14. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the composition has, upon reduction of the copper species with hydrogen at 250 °C, a copper surface area of at least 80 m² per gram of copper.

15. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the composition is in the form of shaped units suitable for use as fixed bed catalysts or sorbents.

16. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 15, wherein each shaped unit is at least 1 mm in size.
17. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 16, wherein each shaped unit is 1-15mm in size.
18. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the alumina is in the form of a powder having a surface-weighted mean diameter of 1-100 microns.